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General Assembly

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English
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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 114 (c)
Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Letter dated 8 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on Burma/Myanmar issued on 8 February 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Pierre **Schori**
Permanent Representative of Sweden
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 8 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Burma/Myanmar issued on 8 February 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union (EU) welcomes the initial contacts that have taken place between the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) and Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi, Secretary-General of the National League for Democracy (NLD). The EU considers these developments to be the most interesting since 1990. They need to be encouraged.

At the same time, the EU notes that the political situation in Burma/Myanmar remains worrying. It emphasizes the need for concrete measures leading to national reconciliation, democracy and the respect of human rights, in line with the common position of the EU and of General Assembly resolutions. The EU sincerely hopes that the confidential contacts that have started between SPDC and NLD will lead to real progress in all these areas. The EU stands ready to support further developments in these contacts. The EU also welcomes the recent release from detention of a number of opposition activists.

The EU reiterates its strong support for the efforts of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy Tan Sri Razali Ismail, upon whom the Troika called in connection with its mission to Rangoon/Yangon.

The European Union welcomes the contacts that its Troika mission had with all the parties during its visit to Burma/Myanmar from 28 to 31 January 2001.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

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Agenda item 48
The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti

Letter dated 8 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the recent dialogue initiative proposed by Haitian civil society issued on 6 February 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Pierre **Schori**
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

01-25080 (E) 160201 160201

Annex to the letter dated 8 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the recent dialogue initiative proposed by Haitian civil society issued on 6 February 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union takes note of the initiative of 18 January 2001 launched by major organizations of Haitian civil society with a view to resolving the political and constitutional crisis currently affecting the country.

It has been suggested to the political parties of Haiti by major segments of civil society that it is vital to resume a dialogue in order to overcome the obstacles to the achievement of political stability and democratic pluralism in the country. The initiative proposes the establishment of a negotiating Commission which would include representatives of civil society and of political parties.

The European Union warmly welcomes and expresses its support and strong interest in the proposed political initiative. The appeal and the proposals made for the establishment of a dialogue are a full response to the wish of the European Union to foster positive political developments in Haiti following the presidential and senatorial elections held in November last year.

In this context, the European Union would like to declare its readiness to assist in the framework of a dialogue between the President, Mr. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, his party, Fanmi Lavalas, and the opposition in the Democratic Convergence, along the lines of efforts already undertaken by the Organization of American States. It is of utmost importance that all parties react favourably to the initiative and show evidence of the openness and reconciliation which Haitian society expects of the political class. Meanwhile, all sides are urged to refrain from violence.

The European Union is deeply concerned by the persistence of the political crisis in Haiti and regrets that no significant progress has been noted since the elections held on 26 November 2000. Only the resumption of a dialogue among all sections of Haitian society will enable the crisis to be swiftly resolved, which is indispensable for the future political and economic development of the country.

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Security Council

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 164
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 14 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to a heinous act of terrorism which was perpetuated today in the heart of Israel by a Palestinian terrorist.

This morning, a Palestinian driver from Gaza, an employee of the Israeli bus company Egged, rammed the bus he was driving into a group of civilians and off-duty soldiers waiting at a bus stop near Holon in central Israel. Eight Israeli citizens were killed and 19 were injured, some critically.

The bus had just completed its morning route shuttling Palestinian workers from Gaza to their jobs in Israel, as part of the Israeli government programme to provide Palestinians with access to jobs in Israel, despite the security risks for Israel during this present wave of Palestinian violence.

The Hamas Izzadin al Kassam terrorist faction has reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack. It should be recalled that convicted terrorists of the same faction have recently been released from Palestinian Authority jails, in violation of signed Israeli-Palestinian agreements and despite repeated Israeli warnings that terrorist attacks would imminently result.

The Palestinian Authority cynically justified the attack, placing the responsibility for it on Israel.

The crime which was committed today is merely the latest in a series of Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israel and Israeli citizens. I have detailed these incidents, the number of which has sharply increased in recent weeks, in a number of letters addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132) and in my letters dated 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

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Israel now finds itself in a daily reality of ongoing Palestinian violence and terrorism directed against its citizens and security forces.

Israel places the responsibility for this latest attack on the Palestinian leadership, whose cynical approval for such attacks, both tacit and openly expressed, is the primary reason for the continuation of the current wave of violence. This support of violence stands in direct contradiction to repeated legal undertakings made by the Palestinian Authority in agreements concluded with Israel. It also stands in direct violation of Chairman Arafat's signed commitment of 9 September 1993, in which he renounced the use of terrorism and resolved to ensure the compliance of all elements and personnel under his authority with this principle.

The Palestinian Authority must understand that Israel cannot accept a situation in which the road to peace, to which all Israeli Governments are committed, is marked by such heinous events, which undermine the very foundation of the peace process.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 164, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative